

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /092 W

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R 181330Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7953

INFO AMEMASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, UR

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF SOVIET AIR CHIEF'S
ARRIVAL

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. JORDANIAN NEWS MEDIA
HAVE GIVEN RESTRAINED BUT CORDIAL WELCOME TO VISITING
DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER AND AIR FORCE CHIEF MARSHAL
PAVEL KUTAKHOV, WHO ARRIVED AMMAN MAY 17. AMMAN DAILY
AR-RAYY EDITORIAL ON ARRIVAL DAY APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED
IN ITS FASHION TO DENY VISIT IS OPENING WEDGE OF ANY GOJ
NEW POLICY OPPORTUNISTICALLY TO PLAY SUPERPOWERS
OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER: "FOR THE FIRST TIME, JORDANIAN-
SOVIET RELATIONS HAVE EMERGED FROM THEIR RING OF
CAUTION IN ORDER TO ASSUME THEIR DESERVED PROPORTIONS,
FREE OF NOISY PROPAGANDA. JUST AS JORDAN, A SMALL
COUNTRY, DOES NOT BELIEVE IN SECURING ITS
INTERESTS BY MANEUVERING BETWEEN EAST AND WEST,
NEITHER DOES IT BELIEVE THAT INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS
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ARE TEMPORARY, SUBJECT TO BALANCING GAMES. SOME

OVSERVERS MAY TRY TO CONNECT THE MARSHALL'S VISIT TO AMMAN TO THE STUPIDITY OF THE AMERICAN STAND REGARDING THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM DEAL WHICH JORDAN HAS SIGNED WITH WASHINGTON. THIS CONNECTION IS NOT COMPLETELY ACCURATE, ALTHOUGH IT COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO SETTING THE DATE OF THE VISIT. JORDANIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE READY FOR SUCH A STEP, TODAY OR ON SOME OTHER DAY....(THE JORDANIAN-SOVIET RAPPROCHMENT) REPRESENTS THE AUGMENTATION OF OUR DEFENSE NEEDS AGAINST AN ISRAEL ARMED FAR BEYOND HER NEEDS....IT ALSO MEANS, FROM THE SOVIET POINT OF VIEW, A CONTINUATION OF UNSELFISH SUPPORT TO THE ARAB CAUSE." END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. TV NEWS COVERAGE PLACED CLIPS OF SOVIET DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL AT AMMAN AIRPORT FIRST IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE. FILMS GAVE IMPRESSION OF JOVIAL CORDIALITY, WITH SMILES AND BEARHUGS ALL AROUND, ALTHOUGH STRICT OBSERVANCE OF PECKING ORDER APPARENT WITH CINC LT GEN BIN SHAKER ABSENT FOR ARRIVAL CEREMONIES.

3. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON VISIT APPEARED IN MAY 18 PRESS. STRAIGHTFORWARD RATHER LOW-KEY ACCOUNT OF BANQUET PRESENTED IN MARSHALL'S HONOR BY LT GEN BIN SHAKER APPEARED ON FRONT PAGES OF PRINCIPAL DAILIES, INCLUDING PICTURES AND ABRIDGED TEXT OF KUTAKHOV'S AND CINC'S REMARKS. BIN SHAKER, AS QUOTED, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT VISIT REPRESENTED BEGINNING OF PROCESS OF COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OFFERED BY USSR "IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE ARABS TO REGAIN THEIR USURPED RIGHTS." KUTAKHOV PRODUCED USUAL BOILERPLATE RE MUTUAL COOPERATION, REFERRING TO ISRAEL'S "CONTINUED USURPATION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARABS," AND SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE "INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE UN."

4. COMMENT: DESPITE OBVIOUS UNSPOKEN POLITICAL UNDERCURRENTS TO SOVIET VISIT, THUS FAR GOJ HAS HANDLED IT IN THE SAME STRAIGHTFORWARD, OFFICIAL MANNER THAT IT HAS TREATED SIMILAR FOREIGN MILITARY
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DELEGATIONS.
PICKERING

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